

Precision

OCTOBER 1967
Vol. 12 No. 6
Fifty Cents

SHOOTING

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CALIBERS—SINGLE SHOT	222 Rem., 222 Rem. Mag., 223 Rem., 22-250, 6 m/m x 47 m/m (6 m/m .222 Mag.), 6 m/m International (6 m/m on .250 Sav. case), 6 m/m Rem. (.244 chamber), 6.5 m/m Rem. Mag., 7 m/m Rem. Mag., 7.62 m/m Nato (308 Win.), 30-06, 30-338, (.30, 7m/m Mag.), 243 Win., 300 Win. Mag.
REPEATING	7.62 m/m Nato (308 Win.), 222 Rem., 222 Rem. Mag., 223, 6 m/m x 47 m/m, 6 m/m Rem., 6 m/m Int., 22-250. Calibers whose over-all loaded length is equal to or shorter than the 308, 243 Win., 6.5 m/m Rem. Mag. (3 shots in magazine only).
CAPACITY	Single loading and 5-shot clip repeater. (Repeater loads with clip from top of receiver in 308 head size cartridge only.)
SIGHTS	Redfield Olympic front & rear sights optional.
SAFETY	Thumb operated safety with standard trigger.
RECEIVER	Drilled and tapped for metallic sights and telescope mount bases. Target type blocks furnished.
BARREL LENGTH	27¼" free floating.
LENGTH OF PULL	13½". Trigger adjustable 1 to 3½ lbs.
STOCK	Selected American Walnut Fore-end stop and sling swivel adjustable on base.
OVER-ALL LENGTH	47"
AVERAGE WEIGHT	Without Sights: Heavy Barrel 11¼ lbs. Standard Barrel 9¾ lbs.

CALIBER	TWIST	Max. Avg. Three 5-Shot Groups 100 Yards
222 Remington	14"	.45"
222 Remington Magnum	14"	.45"
223 Remington	14"	.45"
22-250	14"	.55"
6 m/m x 47 m/m (6 m/m 222 Magnum)	12"	.55"
6 m/m International (6 m/m on 250 Sav. case)	12"	.60"
6 m/m Remington (244 chamber)	10" or 12"	.60"
243 Win.	10"	.70"
6.5 m/m Rem. Mag.	9"	.70"
7 m/m Remington Magnum	9"	.75"
7.62 m/m Nato (308 Win.)	10"	.75"
30-06	10"	1.00"
30-338 (30 7 m/m Mag.)	10"	1.00"
300 Win. Mag.	10"	1.00"

These accuracy specifications are the maximum we accept before shipment. The targets are furnished with the rifle along with the load data.

Remington 

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

J. D. Ackor, Editor

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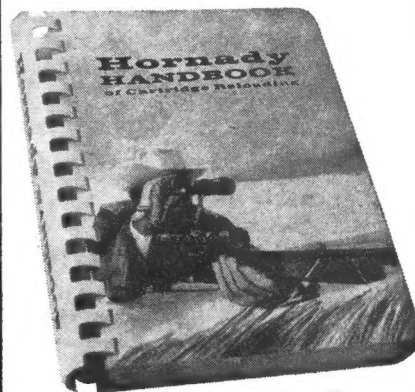
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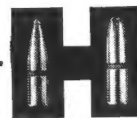
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LETTERS, to and from

Dear Mr. Walker:

It was good to see the announcement of your Questions and Answers column in the "new-style" Precision Shooting. Herewith, then, a few questions!—

1. This stems from your article on bedding. Agreed wholeheartedly on the principle and practice of bedding actions that you advocate. And yet there is still a lot about the subject which is puzzling. Speaking of rifles with floating barrels — the usual kind we are interested in — though the properly-bedded action, and the stock it is bedded into, are under no strain or stress when tested with the barrel vertical, yet when the rifle is in the usual, near-horizontal, shooting position the receiver and stock *are* under

considerable strain from the weight of the floating barrel. If they were *not*, the barrel would fall into the barrel-channel in the forearm! The weight of the barrel tends to lift the back end of the receiver, and is prevented from doing so by the rear guard-screw, and to some extent by the centre-screw in 3-screw actions. The receiver *must* bend a *little* as a result. My question is this:— why a receiver can be subjected to some strain of this kind (resulting from the bending force applied by the weight of a fully-floating barrel) and the rifle still be accurate; and yet, if any stress exists in the receiver as a result of the screws pulling the receiver against a poor bedding job (as would be shown up in your tests with the barrel vertical) accuracy practically always suffers? I note, too, that in all actions with the usual forward locking lugs, the stress in the action is in what is conventionally regarded as a non-operative part (from the shooting point of view) *behind* the locking lugs!

2. This is really a continuation of 1. above. The floating barrel, by reason of its weight, subjects a receiver to some bending strain. My own researches into this subject suggest that, all other things being equal, (i.e. quality of barrels and ammunition) there is for each type of action a certain optimum gap weight of barrel to give greatest accuracy with that style of action. To exceed this weight means that the accuracy of the rifle will fall off. As the barrel becomes too heavy for the action and "takes charge" of the latter, as it were. Taking the Mauser 98 action and 26 to 28-inch barrels as "standards" I *tentatively* conclude that

the optimum weights of fully-floating barrels may be:—

"A" — "Normal" 98 action with magazine cut — 3½ to 4 lbs.

"B" — "Benchrest" 98 action with solid floor — 5 to 6 lbs.

"C" — 98 action with heavy "strongback" or sleeve — at least 9 to 10 lbs., perhaps much more.

I would like your opinion on this, related to any bolt-action you choose, any my guess is that lots of other benchresters would be interested too. The above is not meant to imply that a certain, say 4 lb., barrel wouldn't give better accuracy in a reinforced action, style "C", than a "plain" action, style "A". That is another question of course. In fact, with a certain 4 lb. barrel, would you expect much difference in accuracy between actions "A" and "C", and if so why do you think this is?

3. (a) The 6mm. International, and even the 6 x 47, cartridges interest me as possible 300-meter Free Rifle cartridges. A chap I know is experimenting with a Free rifle for each of these cartridges. Their mild recoil and great accuracy are matters of record, but how do their best wind-bucking loads (I assume these are still highly accurate) compare over 300 meters with the 168 gr. Sierra 30 caliber bullet from the 7.62 NATO cartridge? I assume all cartridges in question loaded to usual working pressures. What *are* the best wind-bucking loads in these two cartridges?

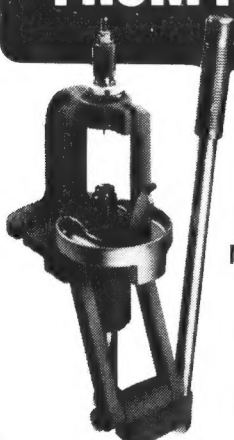
(b) If you had to choose a cartridge and load for 300-meter shooting, what would they be?

4. I read in a contemporary magazine that at least one of the major

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NBRSA membership for one year is \$6.00. This includes a subscription to PRECISION

SHOOTING for the membership term. NBRSA associate membership, no magazine, \$2.50 a year. NBRSA Life Membership, \$75.00. Club affiliation fee, \$10 annually. Contact Bernice McMullen, Sec. Treas., NBRSA, 607 West Line Street, Minerva, Ohio 44657.

arms companies is reading our minds to find out what we want in future products. If they are why are shooters of "magnum" 30-calibers unable to buy new 30 Newton brass? The bullgun artists who have experience of this cartridge for 1000 yard shooting have never been satisfied with any belted-magnum case, for various reasons, and among the people I speak to, at least, a real demand exists for the 30 Newton, ruinless, *un*-belted, to the old specifications. It took a long time for the .22/250 to appear in factory form, let's hope *not* so long for the good .30 Newton to *re*-appear. One of the "majors" still has not got its "own" .30-caliber magnum. A surprising number of people may be holding their breath hoping that when it appears it will be their old friend.

Have the companies really got their ears to the night bits of ground?

Sure good to see your face in PS again. Good shooting!

Sincerely yours,
John E. Brindle

Dear John:

Agreed that there are many puzzling things about rifle bedding. I do not believe that anyone has all the answers. My own experience is limited to varmint weight rifles and sporters.

The heavy bench rest rifles, although the same principles apply, are getting away from bedding problems by using special heavy constructions not necessarily applicable to the Varmint Class rifle. However, Ed Shilen claims to have success with an aluminum sleeve surrounding a portion of a M/600 Remington action and a few inches of the barrel at the rear. The inside of the tube is filled with epoxy. The sleeve is then bedded in the stock. The rear of the receiver and the portion of the barrel outside the sleeve are floating.

Since the barrel dimensions are strictly limited in the Varmint Classes, this method is presently interpreted as outside the rules since it effectively adds to the barrel dimensions at the rear. Although this seems to be a good construction, I have no experience with it and would not attempt to assess its value. If this method will work, then it is possible that the same portion of the receiver and barrel could be bedded in the stock with good results, particularly since the four inches of barrel at the receiver can be 1.25" in diameter and would easily

accept a guard screw hole on the under side.

Certainly the weight of the free floating barrel is a factor in the receiver bedding. In Varmint rifles, and heavier rifles as well, the objective in bedding should be to get the metal and wood to assume the exact same relationship to each other after every shot. Many bench rest enthusiasts believe this is accomplished by eliminating as much stress and friction from the wood-metal connection as possible. Some who have the facilities are using a dial indicator rig fastened to the fore-end with the dials against the barrel. The "return to zero" properties of the combination can be checked with this set-up.

The stresses in the action set-up by firing are not limited to the direct action of the force against the bolt face. The center of gravity of most rifles is considerably below the bore centerline. In addition, friction on sand bags and the method of firing add reacting forces below the centerline. The acceleration forces of firing, due to these reacting forces, cause a torque to be applied to the rifle in the

vertical plane which flexes the barrel downward. In most rifles, when this occurs, the receiver is flexed upward in the center.

All of this movement causes varying amounts of rubbing between the receiver and the receiver bed in the stock. The metal and the wood had darn well better return to its original relationship, exactly, or the next shot will be out of the group.

The relationship of barrel weight to receiver stiffness is certainly of some importance if the receiver alone is to be used to hold the weight of the barrel. This is the reason why many are looking for different methods of bedding the Varmint Class rifles in order to use the lower cost actions. The exact relationship between barrel weight and action is probably not as well defined as your A B C tabulation. A M/40X with test barrel 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 28" is available which shoots 10-shot aggregates under .300". This rifle is bedded on the action only.

Another very important item being given lots of attention by bench rest enthusiasts is the target telescope. Particularly in the Varmint Class the

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method of mounting is important. The lighter, free floating, barrels are affected by the frictional forces between the tube and the mounts when at least the front mount is fastened to the barrel. An adequate telescope which can be mounted entirely on the receiver is needed. None are available at the present time. If we are to take full advantage of the barrel weight allowed by the Varmint Class rules, this telescope and mount should weigh in the neighborhood of 1 pound.

At the present time I would have to pick the 7.62 Nato as the best 300 meter International Match cartridge. The reason for this choice is the availability of the 168 grain Hollow Point Boat Tail in that caliber. There are no bullets available in other calibers to equal it in accuracy and wind bucking ability up to 300 yards. The 6mm's are easier to shoot and possibly with custom home-made bullets in 85 to 90 grain could equal the 7.62 with added development. However, no one seems to be willing to make the effort with the 7.62 already available.

The market for 30 caliber Magnums is not of a size conducive to interest the arms companies enough to intro-

duce another one. What is good about the 30 Newton and how many do you think would be sold?

Sincerely,
M. H. Walker

Dear Sir:

In W.J. Purcell's article on page 14 of July issue, photo of Straight Line Bullet Seater, mention is made "that the base cup is unnecessary if seater is placed on a flat surface."

I have used such seaters for years and found out the hard way that not using the base cup can be very dangerous.

On seating bullet the cartridge exploded. The piece of steel seater was resting on was driven through the table and the seating plunger knob was shot out of the seater and struck me just over my eye, fortunately missing my eye, but putting me out cold. Lucky for me no fractured skull.

While this might never happen again, I don't think the base cup with hole in center which prevents the primer from contact with anything should be called unnecessary refinement. There were no powder granules



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on the smooth iron plate I used, somehow the cartridge exploded.

This happened 39 years ago and since then I have never omitted using the base cup.

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Dear Sirs:

In regards to Chuck Lawley's article in the August issue of P.S. (Big holes for Higher scores). I was somewhat disturbed by some of the remarks.

The one thing that disturbed me most by Chuck's article was the chart (6mm vs. 308 advantages). I would like to take the items he listed and dwell on each for a moment.

1st. *Wind deflection*: True, wind at 100 yds won't affect a .30 calibre as much as a 6mm; however, how about a tail or head wind? Seems to me the big bullets would drop faster in the same head wind since once they start their drop the big bullet will dive faster because it's heavier and more surface area.

2nd. *Recoil & Jump*. How much difference is there really between a 6 mm of .250 Savage case capacity, and a .308? Certainly enough to make the shooter reposition either rifle to some great degree after firing especially in a 10½ lb. rifle with a 2¼" fore end. I would think "Recoil & Jump" in this case would be up to the shooter.

3rd: *Bullets Available* It would seem to me that there are many more available .30 cal. match bullets on the markets now than there are 6mm bullets since I can name from Sierra alone the 168 Int., the 108 match King, the 190 match King, the 200 Match King, and now possible the 165 Sierra B.T. and I can only recall one "match" bullet for 6mm available over the counter. That's the 80 grain 6mm Remington. After all how many Hunter Target shooters make their own bullets?

4th: *Cost of Shooting*. How many "target" shootings that are Soley entranced with punching paper are really concerned with "Cost". If we thought we could win by using a silver dollar for a bullet "We would try it."

5th: *Barrel Life*. I would suggest that you drag out some of the back issues of the "National Rifleman" and read about some of Uncle Sam exclusive tests that were run on barrel life.

At present I have 2500 rounds on my .308 Hart BBL rifle, "and she's still going strong."

In fact I plan to enter it in the Modesto H.V. matches Sept. 10, 1967, I may not win but I bet I get a sandwich while they get a meal.

6th: *Hole Size*. Naturally it's larger so the .30 calibre has to have some sort of an advantage over the 6mm. I found that when I built my .308 my score increased by at least 1 point per target consistently over my Hart barreled 6mm.

7th: *Accuracy, No Wind*. I can hardly see how you can give the accuracy trophy to the 6mm's. I sometimes wonder if there were as many .30's being fired in competition as 6mm's & .22's if they wouldn't hold some of the records at present? It seems at the last Richmond Rod & Gun Club shoot "Hunter Target" the first six places were as follows:

L. Thompson	.308	Improved	250-25X
B. Underwood	.308	Win	247-23X
D. Underwood	.308	M.S.	246-22X
H. Laugh	.308		244- ?
C. Stilner	6-25		243- ?
J. McFarland	.308	Win	242- ?

In my opinion this rather speaks for itself in favor of "Big Holes for Higher Scores."

Yours truly,
Ben Underwood
37158 Dutra Way
Fremont, Calif. 94536

P.S.

To the best of my knowledge the 250 possible is the highest score ever fired in "Hunter Target" competition under Hunter Target rules in a registered match. "Congradulations Larry!" You did it at a great disadvantage with a .30 calibre.

Dear Sir:

Mr. W. J. Purcell, in his article "Loading for Bench Rest Accuracy" appearing in the July issue of "Precision Shooting" states that no commercial source is known for the "Hammer In" type of neck sizes.

However, there is on the market an admirable tool, known as the "Lee Loader", manufactured by Lee Custom Engineering, Inc. of Hartford, Wisconsin — retail price \$9.95, which
(Continued on page 10)

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EASTERN REGION TROPHY WINNERS on August 11, 12 and 13 included, from left to right, Arnold Banker, Mike Walker, Warren Page, Crawford Hollidge, John Kohler, Bob Hart and George Stannard.



HEAVY BENCH GUN honors went to Arnold Banker.



CRAWFORD HOLLIDGE poses with a hard-won token of benchrest victory.

Eastern Region Varmint Championships



BOB HART checks the cup he captured in competition.



LIGHT VARMINT GRAND AGGREGATE and three rifle grand aggregate honors went to PS President, Mike Walker.



GEORGE STANNARD was among the winners and received this trophy.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

does a complete reloading job.

The undersigned has employed several of these tools for different rifle cartridges with entire satisfaction, as have numerous friends that I have outfitted. Operations are simplified and speeded up by the use of a simple home made press that replaces the mallet in freeing the case from the die, recapping and seating the bullet.

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Ole Great Benchrest Shooter

by STU RAYMOR

Ole Great Benchrest Shooter in the sky;

Oh, tell me why, tell my why;

My bullets in the box look true;

But, in the group the 5th one flew;

My target sets there in a trance;

But when I shoot it starts to dance;

That big wind that you sent;

Hit my bullet, and it bent;

But I won't quit, you'll all see;

The Ole Benchrest Shooter will smile
on me;

McMILLAN SWEEPS

Pat McMillan of Phoenix made a clean sweep of three classes at the St. Louis Benchrest Club June 10 & 11. Pat won the 100 yd., 200 yd. and Grand Aggregate in Heavy Varmint, Light Varmint, and Sporter. The scores for the first three places were as follows.

HEAVY VARMINT			
	100 yd.	200 yd.	Grand
Pat McMillan	.3110	.4558	.3834
Don Kramer	.4836	.4718	.4777
John Bushnell	.4438	.5222	.4830
LIGHT VARMINT			
Pat McMillan	.5076	.7916	.6496
Dave Quevereaux	.5208	1.0137	.7672
W. E. Espy	.5100	1.0461	.7780
SPORTER			
Pat McMillan	.5288	.821	.6749
Ken Lestina	.7214	.924	.8227
Al Walter	.8540	1.092	.9730
BENCHREST RIFLE			
Vicki Dillon	.4590	.7974	.6282
Henry Freytag	.4072	.9258	.6665
Al Walter	.5408	.8342	.6875

Army Cops Team Rifle Win

CAMP PERRY, Ohio Sept. 1 — The firing of the National Infantry Trophy Team Match officially opened the rifle phase of the National Matches. Army Eastern knowing they had to beat a strong Marine Team posted a record breaking score to defeat the "leathernecks" 1279 to 1251. Army teams also won the third and fourth positions.

The winning team coached by SFC Roy Combs and Staff Sgt. Roger

Stanley exceeded by fifteen points the old record of 1264 set by Army Mercer in 1964.

The Infantry Trophy Team Match is a fire and movement contest fired against time at successive ranges of 600, 500 and 300 yards by a six man team. Because of the high rate of fire required to score the silhouettes' target the match has become better known as the "rattle battle".

The Presidents Match, fired at 200, 300 and 600 yard stages was won by Army Staff Sgt. Arpail Gapol. He posted a 293 out of 300 points to tie Navy's PO1 Richard Grogan. However, Gapol fired a perfect 100 at the 600 yard line to outrank the Navyman's 98. For his victory, Gapol received a congratulatory message from the President of the United States and a Gold Medal.

Back at the 1000 yard line in the Leech Cup Match Army's World Champion, Margaret Thompson fired an amazing 100 with 18V's only two shots out of the center of the bullseye. Her score placed third in the match at the final tally.

In the same match but in the Bolt Rifle Division her team-mates Maj. Presley Kendall and SFC Herbet Duncan placed second and third respectively.

For the National Service Rifle Championship Lt. James Bowen, US MC, was high in the seven match aggregate with 1546. Staff Sgt. Gapol, Lt. Gary Anderson and SFC Chester Hamilton were runners-up.

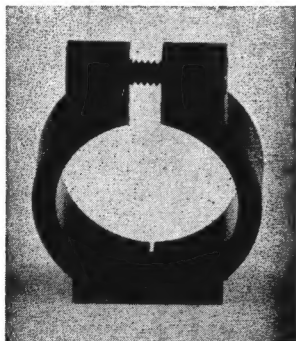
Three of the best woman shooters in the nation were in contention for the National Womans Rifle title but Staff Sgt. Barbara Hile, U.S. Army successfully defended her crown for her sixth National Championship. Her 1515 score outpointed Navy's PO2 Elaine Lehtinen's 1509 and Capt. Margaret Thompson's 1507.

The 1967 National Matches closed out with the USMC Zahm Team winning the National Trophy Team Match. Army Eastern and Army Western placed second and third.

The U.S. Army International Rifle Team defending their National Championships dominated the 1967 Small-bore Rifle Prone and Position championships at the National Matches, Camp Perry, Ohio.

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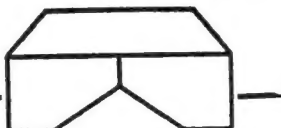
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The precision shooting of Capt. Bruce Meredith and World Champions Capt. Margaret Thompson and Lt. Gary Anderson, all members of the gold medal winning U.S. Pan-American Shooting Team; won for themselves and the Army three major championships.

Meredith, fresh from his Pan-American Games team victories, set a new match record by dropping only four points to win the National Prone Championship with a 6396-593x. Only two points off the pace was Army's Capt. David Ross who placed second with 6394 while civilian John Carri-son, Wilmington, Del. was third.

Meredith led the Army in a clean sweep of the Prone Any Sight Aggregate by setting a new National record 3200-218. Capt. Ross and Lt. John Writer placed second and third respectively.

Gary Anderson, fresh from a double team victory in the Pan-American Games, paced the Army to a one, two, three victory in the National Position Championship. His 3171 led Lt. John Writer's 3162 and Capt. John Foster's 3160. On his way to victory Anderson placed in the top three places of every match.

Foster's strong shooting won him the Any Sight Position Aggregate while Reservist David Kimes, former Army Team member, won the Metallic Sight Position contest.

World Champion Capt. Margaret Thompson, 1967 Pan-American Games Gold Medalist, successfully defended her National Womens Position title with a 3127.

In the Team Matches Army Blue shattered two position team records. They fired a 1580 for the Four Position Metallic Sight Team Championship and 1582 for the Four Position Any Sight Team Championship. Members of the Blue team, coached by Lt. Wallace Lyman were Anderson, Writer, Foster and Maj. Presley Kendall. They added eight points to the Metallic Sight record and 19 to the Any Sight Team Match record despite rain and bothersome winds.

An interesting facet of the matches was the superb shooting of Lt. John Writer. Writer, the 1966 National Collegiate Champion, firing as a member of the U.S. Army team was runner-up to champion Gary Anderson 3171 to 3162.

South Creek Reports

by LAURA B. ANDREWS

On June 4th our first Hunter Rifle Match was held at the South Creek Range with 22 shooters registered, three of these were shooting for record only, as their guns did not qualify in the Hunter class.

It was a lovely day. Sandwiches and coffee were served in the club house.

Although this was the first Hunter match ever held at our range, it went smoothly with the assistance of some of the fellows from Council Cup, and we wish to express our thanks.

Trophys were awarded to first place winners in each class.

CLASS WINNERS

MASTER CLASS

W. Huntington	(231)	46.2
R. Dixon	(211)	42.2

HUNTER CLASS

P. Jones	(230)	46.0
C. Shiner	(225)	45.0

NOVICE CLASS

G. Graves	(163)	32.2
R. Hatfield	(155)	31.0

On June 24th and 25th we held our first two-day Benchrest match of the season, with 49 shooters participating and 80 guns in the three classes; Sporter, Heavy and Light Varmint.

The weather was very kind to us with the exception of a short shower at noon on Sunday, but it was dinner time anyway, so who minds a little recess. The winds played their usual pranks and widened some of the groups, disqualifying quite a few, including some of the old timers.

Our new scoring house was quite the attraction, and although its far from being finished, it served its purpose well, and the accomodation for hung-targets on the side under a three foot overhang, protected all from the sun and rain.

Our new cook in the kitchen (Mary Hatfield, our treasurer) did a bang-up job of pleasing everyone's appetite.

Wall plaques were awarded the first, second and third place winners in each class, and for first place in the three gun aggregate a hand-tooled leather wallet with the N.B.R.S.A. emblem was awarded.

SPORTER

Robert White	.5528
Wallace Hart	.5552
Robert Hart	.5688

Grand Agg.

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Richard Hall	.5552
Jerry Arnold	.5664
Richard Otis	.5844
Arthur Blensinger	.6256

LIGHT VARMINT

James Stekl	.5239
Robert Hart	.5331
M. Walker	.6150
Omar Rinehart	.6209
Pete Horowitz	.6647

THREE-GUN AGGREGATE

Robert Hart	.5948
M. H. Walker	.6421
Wallace Hart	.6713

A NEPHEW AT THE NATIONALS

by JEAN R. STREETER

Once again we were on our way to the Nationals — this time with a 16 year old nephew along as the "beginner". As we drove in from Shickshinny, Gary began to show definite signs of nervousness. He was sure we weren't really on a road. Nothing that narrow could be! When we reached the dirt road into Council Cup I think Gary would really have preferred walking.

We arrived just as it again started raining. Two days of it had made things pretty soft and we had to get the car pushed up the hill to our rented trailer.

We quickly discovered that the range had been improved. Two 14' cleaning benches have been added under an overhang behind the firing line, separated from it by a narrow gravel walk. This prevents early finishers from having to step on the concrete slabs, possibly deflecting a bullet being fired. Five new benches were installed, bringing the total to 25, filling the diked area and completing the overall plan for the shooting area.

On Monday Stan and Gary practiced with the 6mm. Gary would get good groups with an occasional one out. "Letting go of the sandbag or not pulling your scope back?", asks his uncle. One of many lessons that were to come.

Bob and Wally Hart opened the shop for a tour. Gary came back fascinated, Stan came back with a new front rest, and I got a stock blank out of it all. I think that was pretty canny salesmanship on Bob's part.

Gary had recently purchased his first rifle — a .22. He came back from the clubhouse quite excited. "There's a 6x scope down there for \$9.00!" Uncle and nephew went to look. Well — it turned out the tag was partially hidden — the price was \$49.00. But who can blame a boy for wishing?

Rifles cracking in the dawn served as alarm clocks on Tuesday. The rangemaster, Wally Hart, called for registration over the PA long before it seemed time for even the birds to be up. When I finally managed to peer out the trailer door, the early sunlight filtering thru streaks in the fog tinged the shooting area with gold and light green. The range seemed to be an oasis in the fog — a scene lifted out of fantasy. The flag rose

slowly above the trailer tops followed by the scratched recording of the Lord's Prayer.

How many of us remember what thrilled us at 16? The very word "Nationals" had its own special meaning for Gary. Meeting Warren Page was another. Gary's grandfather was a long time reader of "Field & Stream" and very familiar with Warren's articles. Now Gary could go back and tell him he'd met him, shot against him — yes, and even beat him in one match.

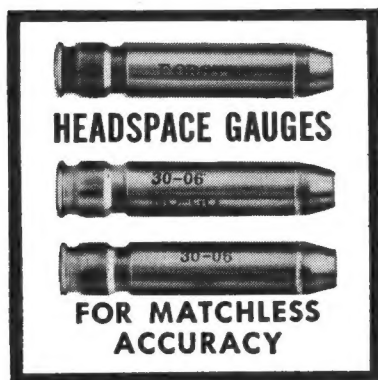
Here was a boy who was occasionally beating his uncle and who went on to take a match — beating everyone — with a .425. His happiness and excitement could hardly be contained. A bolo tie! And then Gary learned that there are sorrows as well as happy moments in shooting — his .425 took a warm-up match and didn't count for a bolo. On top of it all — a hasty final shot at days end and not pulling the scope back brought a disqualification. When time for quiet thought rolled around, there was still more. He realized he'd beaten Warren Page and something had fled as the idol revealed himself a human who at times could lose.

Ernest Merrie and Tam O'Stuhlschuter, alias the Hollidges had their pup tent just behind our trailer. The old pro gave Gary pointers and kept track of his progress. When Crawford got a World's Record for 5 shots at 100 yds — Sporter Class with a .131, Gary's eyes sparkled. After all, he was spending a good deal of his time with a World's Record holder!

Nights, as the light quickly faded, we'd hear a rifle or two still sounding off — and wonder what the fellows could possibly see to shoot at.

Maybe the word heavy in Heavy Varmint class influenced the weatherman. Wind and rain came to play their own background music. I think the matches were highlighted by 3 items — the fantastic shooting of Red Cornelison, the interest in the new team trophy and Cliff Carr's winning a 100 yd. match with a .176, thereby earning himself a bolo tie.

Eighteen 4-man teams vied for the Texas State Team Trophy, a memorial to Wm. S. Coleman. Interest grew steadily as the winds buffeted the



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APPELT, Lanark, Ill.

hopes up and down. The W. Va. No. 3 Ridgerunners took first place, followed by the New Englanders and then the Texans. I was supposed to get a letter from Ed Shilen which has not arrived, and I'm wondering whether the Texans were strung up when they got home for not taking the trophy back with them. I understand Texans are a prideful bunch.

A banquet was held Friday night at which time the trophies were awarded. I was attended all the courtesies and amenities possible by my partner for the evening, Cliff Carr. I had a wonderful time and thoroughly enjoyed the resounding applause given Cliff when he stood to receive his bolo tie. There was a flatness when the banquet was over and the milling throng passed out of the clubhouse. The excitement of the '67 Varmint and Sporter Nationals was over.

Of course, there usually has to be a disturbing afterthought or two. I wish the master of ceremonies, or in this case, the President of NBRSA, would show a bit more tact and kindness. He gave Frank Jeziero quite a rough time over the pronunciation of his name. Poor Frank. He didn't dare let on that in addition to all the trophies he'd won at the Nationals, he'd also won another big one previously for the heavy gun. There it stood — gleaming — but hidden in the back corner of the men's room. Don't worry, Frank — maybe Doc Garcelon couldn't pronounce your name — but he didn't outshoot you either!

By 8 a.m. Saturday morning the crowd was more than half gone. A few trailers gleamed in the foggy mist as though they still waited the early morning registration. It will be a long wait.

HUNTERS MEET

A small turn-out of shooters enjoyed the perfect weather at the Shooting Sports Ranch in Lower Lehigh County, Penna., on Sept. 17, as the Twin-S Gun Club ran their first approved Hunter Rifle match.

John Scrimgeour, W. Pittston, Pa. fired the high score of the day, 240-4X and took the first place trophy in the Hunter Class. John used a Remington rifle in .308 caliber. His load was 39 gr. 3031 with a 168 gr. Sierra bullet.

Charles Lawley, Shavertown, took

first place in the Master Class with 224-1X.

Robert T. Heid, using a Jap action in .243 Winchester, won the Novice division, shooting 231-4X.

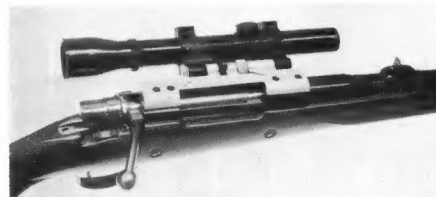
More than half of the competitors had never fired before in a bench rest match.

New Scope Base

Pachmayr Gun Works, Inc., is now offering, on special order, new top mounting bases designed especially for large bore, heavy recoil rifles. The base allows the scope to be mounted as much as 1 1/4" farther forward, allowing more eye relief.

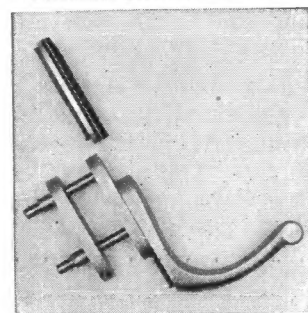
The Pachmayr base still provides the same eccentric mounting of the spherical bearings, which guarantees the scope to hold absolute alignment after initial sighting in and locking. Repeated removal or swinging scope to the side has no effect on the alignment, once properly installed.

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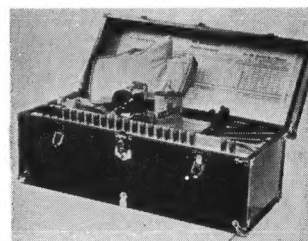
Freeland "61" International Butt Plate Complete \$17.50



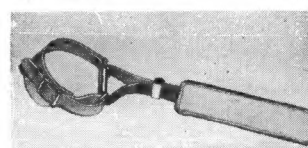
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